| Name of State/U.T. | Closed Mills |
|---|---|
| Tamil Nadu | 62 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 19 |
| West Bengal | 15 |
| Delhi | 3 |
| Manipur | 1 |
| TOTAL | 277 |

**Development of Handicrafts in Bihar**

1853. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reviewed the ongoing programmes and schemes formulated for promotion and development of handicrafts in the selected areas of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and provided for upgradation of skills of traditional artisans and craftsmen during the last three years in Bihar; and

(d) the details of new schemes taken up/proposed to be taken up for upgradation of skills of artisans and craftsmen through institutional support?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ongoing programmes and schemes in operation through out the country are reviewed from time to time. The programmes and schemes reviewed include: training; survey & studies; marketing development programmes; opening of new emporia and renovation/ expansion of existing emporia; workshed-cum-housing; group insurance; common facility centre; health package and member education programme; etc.

(c) During last three years a sum of Rs. 414.04 lakhs has been provided to the State of Bihar under plan schemes which interalia target upgradation of skills of traditional artisans and craftsmen.

(d) The details of new schemes taken up/proposed for upgrading the skill of artisans through institutional support include: training for trainers; supply of modern tools and equipment and member education programme, etc.

**Stabilization of Cotton Economy**

1854. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has made a demand for the establishment of minimum prices for cotton;

(b) whether Government are aware of the frequent distortions in demand for cotton;

(c) what institutional steps Government propose to ensure stabilization of the cotton economy; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) A reference has been received from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh suggesting *inter alia* to fix support price for all the important crops.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) for cotton is announced by the Ministry of Agriculture taking into consideration the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments (including the Government of Andhra Pradesh) and concerned Central Ministries as well as other relevent factors which include cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, parity between price paid and received by the farmers, international prices, effect on industrial cost structure, general price level and cost of living etc.